AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
—Psalm 34:17-18 (NASB)

Valley Grace Brethren Church

of Armagh, PA

September 14th, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourteenth Day of September, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our studies continue on the impact of the Reformation.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings"* (#554)

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Rejoice the Lord is King"* (#52).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 5:19-25.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"It Took a Miracle"* (#241).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"I'd Rather Have Jesus"* (#237).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"* (#240).

Benediction.*

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study:
Thursday, 9/18, at 6:30 PM

Week of Aug. 31 – Sept. 6
Morning Worship—12;
Weekly Offering—$283.00

Week of Sept. 7 – Sept. 13
Morning Worship—12;
Midweek—7; Weekly Offering—$1,017.00

AFRICA UPDATE

PASTOR KEITH MERRIMAN (9/9/25)

Dear beloved brethren,

The Mobile Medical Outreach at Ntoutakoung Cameroon was a wonderful success. They treated over 800 people in the outreach and 100's were saved. Please pray for a new church to be started there. Pray the Lord will raise up a pastor for the church.

Simon Peter Otudo (Eastern Uganda) called this morning and asked for prayer for travel for himself and his team as they go to a village far away and he will preach at a funeral for an older lady he led to Christ a number of years ago. She asked in her will that Simon Peter would officiate at the funeral. It is more than 7 hours away. Please pray for journey mercies and for the Lord's blessing on the funeral service. Simon Peter hopes this might be an opportunity to start a new CGBC in that village.

I also spoke with Pastor Salomon this morning and he is starting a third practorium in Yaounde. He has 12 men who are signed up for the classes. He will teach from 8:30 in the morning until 6:30 at night with a two hour break in the middle. They will meet five days a week for the next two weeks. He will be teaching Brethren Beliefs and Practices as well as Christ and the Spirit and the book of Daniel. Three of the 12 men are pastors of a Chadian CGBC in Yaounde but have not had formal training. Pray for the Lord's provision for these men and that they will be diligent in their studies. The new practorium will be located across the street from Salomon's house.

Thanks as always for your gifts and prayers. God bless, Keith

With the murder of Charlie Kirk, I am reprinting my recent devotional, which has acquired a renewed poignancy in these violent times.—Pastor

"WITH CHARITY FOR ALL..."

Matt. 5:44b: "…love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

by Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC, Armagh, PA 8/14/25

Outside the Biblical Ethic, the story of Dirk Willems, a 16th century Dutch Anabaptist martyr, defies all rational explanation.

Incarcerated for promoting the cause of ***Believer's Baptism*** and rebaptizing those who had been "baptized" as infants,

Pastor Willems was held prisoner for months within a gloomy, moat-encircled fortress. Finding opportunity to escape in the winter of 1569, Dirk successfully crossed the ice-encrusted moat while being pursued by an officer—who proceeded to fall through the ice!

At this point, we might ask ourselves *"What would YOU do under such circumstances?"* Most of us, I dare say, would continue our flight. Dirk—unable to ignore the cries of a fellow man in distress—immediately turned about and rescued his pursuer. Despite the pleas of the grateful officer that his deliverer be released, the local Burgermeister insisted that Willems be returned to prison for prosecution. The authorities—under the tender guidance of Romanism—convicted and mercilessly tortured Dirk in a futile attempt to make him recant his Anabaptist Faith. In May of 1569, Dirk Willems died horribly—being slowly burnt alive at the stake.

Let us return to the icy moat, where there was little time for reflection: Willems was required to make an instant decision. The only explanation that speaks unto the facts is that Willems had so internalized a Christlike charity that he was able—*almost intuitively*—to rapidly pivot and regard a hostile pursuing wolf as someone in need of redemption. Marvel—Jesus died for us sinners when we were yet *enemies* (Rom. 5:10, Col. 1:21-22)! What a hard saying is Matt. 5:44—what a lofty challenge! To deny *self*, take up a *cross*, and *follow* (Matt. 16:24)!